

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding claim 20:

In claim 20 line 5 “**among the plurality of types**” has been amended to --
among a plurality of types--.

Regarding claim 26:

In claim 26 line 7 “**among the plurality of types of signal**” has been amended to --**among a plurality of types of signal--**.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 - 26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claim 20**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest selecting automatically signal processing to be used from among the plurality of types of signal processing which use any of at least a plurality of types of luminance

Art Unit: 2622

signal processing methods and/or a plurality of types of color signal processing methods based upon an extension indicating a format of the file to be processed; further selecting, when the signal processing cannot be selected based on the extension of the file at the selecting step, the signal processing based on specific information of an image sensing apparatus including product information specifying an apparatus that generates the file, configuration of the image sensing device that generates the file and color-filter information specifying a color filter used by the image sensing device that are contained in the file; and converting the digital image data contained in the file to data having a prescribed format by executing the selected signal processing, and the image data the luminance of which is not adjusted by using the coefficient; in combination with other elements of the claim.

Regarding **claims 21 - 25**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 1.

Regarding independent **claim 26**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a first selecting unit configured to select automatically signal processing to be used from among the plurality of types of signal processing which use any of at least a plurality of types of luminance signal processing methods and/or a plurality of types of color signal processing methods based upon an extension indicating a format of the file to be processed; a second selecting unit, when the signal processing cannot be selected based on the extension of the file by said first selecting unit, configured to

select the signal processing based on specific information of an image sensing apparatus including product information specifying an apparatus that generates the file, configuration of the image sensing device that generates the file and color-filter information specifying a color filter used by the image sensing device that are contained in the file; and a converting unit configured to convert the digital image data contained in the file to data having a prescribed format by executing the selected signal processing; in combination with other elements of the claim.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Usman Khan/

/David L. Ometz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2622

Usman Khan
10/10/2008
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622